

- and wherein alkyl or cycloalkyl groups are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from F, OH, OR⁴, OCOR⁴, =O, NH₂, NR⁴R⁴, NHCOR⁴, NHCOOR⁴, NHCONHR⁴, NHSO₂R⁴ SH, and SR⁴,
- B means hydrogen, OH, OCOR⁵, OCONHR⁵, OCOOR⁵, COR⁵, C(NOH)R⁵, C(NOR⁵)R⁵, C(NO(COR⁵))R⁵, COOH, COOR⁵, CONH₂, CONHNH₂, CONHR⁵, CONR⁵R⁵, CONHOH, CONHOR⁵, SO₃H, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁵, SO₂NR⁵R⁵, PO₃H, PO(OH)(OR⁵), PO(OR⁵)(OR⁵), PO(OH)(NHR⁵), PO(NHR⁵)(NHR⁵), or tetrazolyl, each bonded to a carbon atom of group A, or the entire group Y-A-B is N(SO₂R⁴)(SO₂R⁴) or NHSO₂R⁴,
- X means a bond, CH₂, (CH₂)₂, CH(CH₃), (CH₂)₃, CH(CH₂CH₃), CH(CH₃)CH₂, or CH₂CH(CH₃), and
- Y means a bond, O, S, SO, SO₂, NH, NR⁴, NCOR⁴, or NSO₂R⁴.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a patient suffering from a disease associated with chronic inflammation according to claim 15, comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a benzimidazole compound of formula II wherein all heterocyclic groups are selected from pyridinyl, pyridyl, thienyl, imidazol, indonyl, furyl, pyrrolidin, morpholin, piperidin, and piperazine.

43. (New Claim) A method for treating a patient according to claim 33, wherein said patient is suffering from AIDS dementia, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, Down's syndrome, diffuse Lewy body's disease, Huntington's disease, leukoencephalopathy, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Pick's disease, Alzheimer's disease, stroke, temporal lobe epilepsy, or tumors.

(New Claim) A method according to claim 43, wherein said patient is suffering from multiple sclerosis.

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